

# **NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY**

## **1 CORINTHIANS – PART THREE**

### **Particular Problems and Questions Among the Corinthians**

#### **Chapters 4-11**

#### **Lesson 41**

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# Background

- Paul Well Apprised of Situation
- Schisms and Anti-Paul
- Chapter 4 - Paul as a Father
  - Will Come Soon

# Allowed Immorality

## Chapter 5

# The Problem - Incest

“It is actually reported that there is a sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not even occur among pagans: a man has his father’s wife.” (5:1)

- John Chrysostom (347 - 407) “there was another sin committed there, namely, a person who had slept with his stepmother not only escaped rebuke but even became a leader of the people....”

# Paul's Response

- Directed at Man and Church
  - Hand the Man Over to Satan
  - Stop Association
  - Yeast and Passover
  - Judge Those Inside

# Lawsuit Problems

## 6:1-11

# The Problem

## Church Disputes Before Pagan Courts

“If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints?” (6:1)

# Paul's Teaching

- Background:
  - Roman Law Allowed Jewish Disputes Settled By Jewish System
  - Roman Courts Resolved With Strong Favoritism Toward Status and Wealth
- Church Handles
  - Involved in Judging World and Angels
  - Effect on Watching World



# Prostitution and Sexual Immorality (6:12-20)

# The Problems

- *Porneo* (πορνεω) - “Prostitution / Sexual Immorality”
- Background Differences
  - “Mistresses we keep for the sake of pleasure, concubines for the daily care of the body, but wives to bear us legitimate children.”  
Demosthenes, *Orations*, 59.122
  - Temple Prostitution

# Paul's Teaching

- “‘Everything is permissible for me’ -- but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible for me’ -- but I will not be mastered by anything.” (6:12)
- Effect
- Flee Sexual Immorality, Honor God

# Marriage Problems (Chapter 7)

# The Problems

- Celibacy Within Marriage
- Single or Married?
- Mixed Faith Marriages

# Paul's Teaching: Celibacy Within Marriage

“Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry.” (7:1)

Or

“It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”

# Paul's Teaching: Celibacy Within Marriage

“Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry/have sexual relations.”

- Each Should Have Spouse B/c Sexual Immorality
- Mutual Duty - Don't Deprive Unless
  1. Mutual Consent
  2. For A Time
  3. Devotion To Prayer
  4. Come together Again - Satan's Temptation

# Paul's Teaching Single or Married?

“Now to the Unmarried and Widows...” (7:8)

“Now about Virgins...” (7:25)

- Good to Stay Unmarried, but Better to Marry than Burn With Passion (7:8-9)
- If Married, Stay Married (7:10-11)
- Paul says, “because of the present crisis, I think it is good for you to remain as you are...” (7:26)



# Paul's Teaching Mixed-Faith Marriages

- If Unbeliever Willing to Live in Union, No Divorce (7:12-14)
  - Effect on Spouse and Children

# Food Sacrificed To Idols (Chapter 8)

# The Problems

- Eat or Not?
- Conscience Issues

# Paul's Teaching

- There is No Truth to Idols
- So Eat Without Worry
- But Careful With Weak Consciences

# Ministry and Money

- The Problem: Paul Worked and Preached
- Right For Ministry to Be Job
- Also Right To Minister and Work Other Job
- The Key is to Minister!

# Points for Home

- Genuine Christian Faith
  - Genuine At Home
  - Genuine At Church
  - Genuine In Ministry